

division of public housing & rental assistance



Mitt Romney, Governor
Kerry Healey, Lieutenant Governor
Jane Wallis Gumble, Director

Massachusetts
Department of Housing &
Community Development
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 300
Boston, MA 02114

(617)573-1100

Section 8: Housing Choice Voucher/ Family Unification Program

Fact Sheet

The Family Unification Program (FUP) is a collaborative effort between the DHCD and the Department of Social Services (DSS). The Family Unification program provides housing assistance to: (1) battered women and their children who have been displaced because of the battering situation and have not secured permanent, standard, replacement housing; and (2) families with children in placement who have substantially complied with all the DSS service plan tasks, but do not have permanent or adequate housing to which their children can be returned.

DHCD's Division of Public Housing and Rental Assistance, which administers this program, has the responsibility for regulatory and administrative oversight of all state and federally-aided rental assistance programs which address the needs of low-income families, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

How it works

Eligible households are issued a Section 8/HCVF Voucher. The family is then given up to 180 days to locate their own rental housing, which can be located anywhere in the country, or they can elect to remain in their current unit provided it meets program requirements. Rental units must meet minimum standards of health and safety. The rent for the unit must be reasonable in comparison to rents charged for similar, unassisted apartments in the area. A rental subsidy is paid directly to the landlord on behalf of the participating family by the housing agency. The subsidy is determined by the family's income. The family pays the difference between the actual rent charged by the landlord and the amount subsidized by the Section 8/HCVF in program.

The Department of Housing and Community

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Development (DHCD) contracts with eight regional housing agencies and one local housing authority to administer its portfolio of Section 8 subsidies.

**Who is
eligible**

All applicants must have an open DSS case at the time of referral, selection, and when the voucher is issued.

**Application
process**

DSS refers eligible clients to the DHCD administering agency in its region. Referrals are placed on a regional waiting list.

Grants

The Family Unification Program serves approximately 555 households throughout the Commonwealth.

**For further
information**

Please contact the Bureau of Federal Rental Assistance at (617) 573-1150 or your DSS case worker.